

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03  
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /092 W  
-----052814 100126Z /73-65

R 091555Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5647  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB PO  
SUBJECT: CGTP AFFIRMS SUPPORT OF WFTU

SUMMARY: THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED GENERAL WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CGTP) HAS ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF PORTUGUESE WORKERS FOR THE WFTU'S "UNCONDITIONAL" SUPPORT "BEFORE AND SINCE" THE 1974 REVOLUTION. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO CONGRATULATED THE WFTU FOR ITS SUCCESSFUL CONGRESS IN PRAGUE LAST MONTH AND HAS LED TO SPECULATION IN DEMOCRATIC LABOR CIRCLES THAT THE CGTP IS PREPARING TO AFFILIATE WITH THE WFTU. THIS MAY BE WISHFUL THINKING SINCE SUCH A DECISION COULD STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF CGTP OPPONENTS  
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ADVOCATING THE CREATION OF A PARALLEL DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATION, A MATTER OF CONCERN TO CGTP LEADERS DESPITE THEIR NEAR TOTAL DOMINATION OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 4 THE CGTP ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE PRAISING THE WFTU AND EXPRESSING "THE PROFOUND RECOGNITION OF PORTUGUESE WORKERS FOR THE SOLIDARITY AND UNCONDITIONAL

SUPPORT WHICH THAT WORLD TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION HAS ALWAYS GIVEN TO US BOTH BEFORE AND SINCE APRIL 25, 1974." THE CGTP COMMENDED THE WFTU FOR ITS RECENT CONGRESS WHICH WAS "OPENED TO ALL INTERESTED TRADE UNIONS WITHOUT REGARD TO THEIR INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION AND IN WHICH 303 ORGANIZATIONS, 185 OF WHICH WERE NOT AFFILIATED, PARTICIPATED. AMONG THESE NON-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS WAS THE CGTP AND ALSO UNIONS AFFILIATED TO THE ICFTU AND WFL."

2. PRIOR TO THE PRESS RELEASE, BOTH THE COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST PRESS GAVE WIDE COVERAGE TO CGTP PARTICIPATION AT THE WORLD CONGRESS. NEWS STORIES CONVEYED DETAILS OF CGTP COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTIONS. THE CENTRAL THEME OF MOST REPORTS WAS THAT THE WFTU IS THE LARGEST AND MOST REPUTABLE OF THE THREE INTERNATIONALS. THE WFTU WAS RARELY IDENTIFIED AS COMMUNIST OR SOVIET-CONTROLLED. EVEN THE USUALLY PRO-GOVERNMENT "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" DESCRIBED IT AS "ONE OF THE THREE WORLD TRADE UNION CENTRALS. THE OTHERS ARE THE ICFTU, WHICH IS DOMINATED BY THE AMERICANS, AND THE WCL, WHICH HAS AN INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST TENDENCY."

3. COMMENT: AS INDICATED BY ITS PRESS RELEASE, THE CGTP HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE TIES WITH THE WFTU BEFORE AND SINCE THE REVOLUTION. THE WELL PUBLICIZED FLOW OF VISITING TRADE UNION DELEGATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION, OTHER COMMUNIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES, AND PORTUGAL HAS BEEN CONSTANT IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS. THE PRESS RELEASE THEREFORE IS SIGNIFICANT ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT IT REPRESENTS A PUBLIC AFFIRMATION OF CGTP COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT FOR THE WFTU WHICH HAS BEEN HERETOFORE IMPLIED BUT UNSTATED. SPECULATION IN DEMOCRATIC LABOR CIRCLES THAT THE CGTP MAY BE PREPARING TO AFFILIATE WITH THE WFTU IS UNDERSTANDABLE BUT MAY ALSO BE WISHFUL THINKING ON THE PART OF THOSE NON-COMMUNIST LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING THE CREATION OF A PARALLEL DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATION. WHILE CGTP LEADERS COULD AND AT SOME POINT LIKELY WILL SEEK AFFILIATION, THEY ARE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF OPPOSITION FORCES EVENTUALLY UNITING TOGETHER AND COULD SEE AFFILIATION WITH WFTU AS PROVIDING A CATALYST. AFFILIATION, HOWEVER, WOULD BE ANTI-CLIMATIC SINCE THE CGTP IS ALREADY FIRMLY WITHIN THE WFTU ORBIT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNISTS, PRESS RELEASES, LABOR UNIONS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POPULAR SUPPORT  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Review Markings:**  
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